

Nzingha Banks Awarded Tennis Scholarship at Washburn University!

My Journey through the ATA...to Washburn University

I started playing tennis at the age of six and upon graduation from Sixth Form in 2011, Coach Mitch offered me the opportunity work at the ATA. We then began that challenging expedition through National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Tennis to try and obtain a university scholarship. Those ten months became a period of phenomenal growth and inspiration. It was an opportunity for me to hone my skills and give back to the ATA. Yes, the five hours per day, six-days-per-week training program was rigorous and grueling, but was all geared were necessary to achieve my goal.



NZINGHA BANKS
Washburn University, Kansas
2012

It also gave me the privilege of working with some very experienced Coaches and players of the game. There was Coach Christine Kim who helped me to increase my confidence and motivation. Coach Dale Powers was instrumental in helping me to focus on the basics, and keep it simple, while the “Master of Touch”, Coach George, worked on helping me develop “crafty hands”. And then there was Coach Margot Carter, who provided a dose of reality about the NCAA and world of tennis. She helped to guide us through the college recruitment process and helped increase my desire and determination in the process. Finally, there were the Coaches at T BAR M, like Brian Poynter, Joey Rive, Ron Mercado, Ann Smith, and Sydeny Bwalya who encouraged and helped us through the final stage of my preparation.



After months of exploring numerous universities and programs, training and praying, it all came down to Friday, the 13th of July when the two College Coaches visited me at the T BAR M Academy in Dallas, where Coach Chris had been prepping me, fine-tuning my technique. I played first for Coach Steve Fluke of University of Texas of the Permian Basin (UTPB) who immediately offered me an athletic scholarship. And then came Coach Dave Alden of Washburn University in Kansas. I was serving when he walked in and said “Yup! That’s the girl!” and at the end of my tryout he offered me a full-ride scholarship (tennis and academic)!

Nzingha Banks

ATA's Capital Campaign—The Cause is Greater Than The Cost

The Anguilla Tennis Academy's (ATA) capital campaign is established to raise funds to reduce the overall debt of the facility and to build an endowment fund to sustain the programs for future generations. Since the inception of this program in 1996, more than 3,000 children have benefitted from the ATA's annual summer camps and After School Programs.

Over the years several young graduates of the ATA program have benefitted professionally and academically. Denny Derrick is currently Tennis Director at Cuisinart Golf Resort and Spa, and Vallan Hodge-Richardson is Tennis Director at Viceroy Anguilla. Keithroy Proctor was awarded a scholarship to attend Lamberth University, TN in 2006 and most recently, Nzingha Banks was awarded a full scholarship to play for Washburn University, KA this Fall, 2012.

Despite our accomplishments, we are in need of additional support to make our program self-sustainable. We can achieve the goal of raising **US\$2,000,000.00** over the next 5 years by working together and encouraging friends to participate in the ATA capital campaign.

FIRST YEAR GOAL: US\$250,000.00

DURATION: AUGUST 2012 - AUGUST 2013

MAY WE ASK FOR YOUR HELP!



Please visit our online fundraiser at <http://www.crowdrise.com/ANGUILLATENNIS/fundraiser/anguillaprogressive> and make your monthly donation of \$10, \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100 or more. You can also click on the logo above and donate to the Anguilla Tennis Academy Capital Campaign.

Click "DONATE" and complete the credit card instructions and click "DONATE" Amazon payments is used to process your donation. It is secure and will encrypt your entire credit card transaction.

For more information on how you can support the ATA visit our website at www.anguillatennis.com. Thank you in advance for your generous support in helping to shape loves and build a future through the sport of tennis.

2012 Summer Camp Success



ATA Summer Camp 2012 - Parents' Perspectives

by Mimi Connor

“ENERGIZING” “INSPIRING” “MOTIVATING” “MARVELOUS”
“EXCELLENT” “RESOURCEFUL” “FOCUSSED” “DISCIPLINED”
“COMPREHENSIVE” “FUN”

These are just some of the responses received from parents when asked to sum up in just **ONE** word, their impressions of the 2012 ATA Summer Camp. To explain their word choice they offered the following:

*“I found the children were taught very early to **RESPECT** the coaches. They were also taught that in order to move forward they had to **PAY ATTENTION** to the instructions and rules. I saw them learn to take turns and play together.”*

*“My kids have been **PUMPED** and **EXCITED** about coming to camp each day. They are **LEARNING** and their **INTEREST** is **PEAKED**.”*

*“Players had to learn how to maintain **FOCUS** on the ball and how to do many tasks while keeping their eyes on the ball. It has taught them that the key to achieving the ultimate goal is to remain **FOCUSSED** at all times.”*

*“The ATA utilized an excellent blend of **LOCAL** and **INTERNATIONAL** coaches incorporating their experiences together for the good of all involved.”*

*“The ATA Camp gave the kids something to look forward to each day. It **MOITVATED** them and helped them to **FOCUS** and **DEVELOP** their **SKILLS**.”*

I wish to single out the comments of one of the international parents who struggled to find an English word to describe a concept she says doesn't exist in her culture and for which there was no good equivalent in her own language. The concept of teaching and coaching she observed during the ATA summer camp included instruction for her child on **MANY LEVELS**: The fundamentals of the game of tennis, Court etiquette, Team work, Cooperation and Advancement through logically sequenced levels of mastery. She said that in her country this kind of learning experience does not exist. While it is not difficult there to receive instruction in how to play the sport of tennis, it is then up to the individual to master the skills and develop his or her game. Here in Anguilla, she says there is a different cultural mindset wherein **TEAMS OF COACHES** support the **TOTAL DEVELOPMENT** of **EVERY** child in a more **COMPREHENSIVE** way - from the first time a racquet swings to hit the ball, up through the various stages of technical mastery to the competitive arena of singles and doubles play, all the while promoting personal development **INTEGRATED** with technical training.

Her observations made me realize how much we take for granted and how fortunate we are to have an organization like the Anguilla Tennis Academy available to our children and to the community at large. The comments from all the parents attest to the fact that the ATA is living up to its promise to be

“dedicated to providing the highest quality tennis instruction to Anguillan and international youth in a competitive environment while encouraging exemplary sportsmanship, being founded on the principle of using tennis as a vehicle to reach and empower children and to make them responsible citizens in their community.”

Avern Gumbs wins her 1st Regional Tournament

The ATA was invited to participate in the First Caribbean Bank, Youth Tennis Tournament 2012 at the Port De Plaisance in St Maarten from 25 -26 August. Representing the ATA were Sabrina Connor and Avern Gumbs in the Female Open Class.

The tournament was structured in a Round Robin style and each played 4 other players for the best of 7 games each.



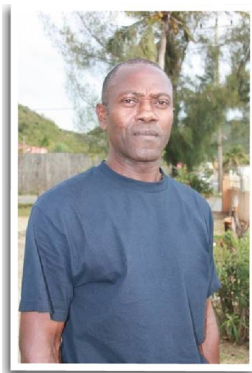
Sabrina Connor won 2 matches 4 - 0, 4 - 0 and lost two matches 3 - 4, 3 - 4. She placed Third overall. Avern Gumbs won her 4 matches 4 - 0, 4 - 0, 4 - 3, 4 - 0. She emerged the tournament Champion! Avern's quick footwork, good ball placement and mental ability to play her game helped to ensure her success but most of all she thanks God for this first victory.

Players from St Maarten and neighbouring islands will be invited to participate in a youth tournament at the ATA this coming October.



George Richards—New ATA Coach

George is a certified tennis instructor with over 24 years of playing and coaching experience. He enjoys coaching and working in the service industry. He managed and taught private tennis lessons at Royal St. Kitts Hotel, St. Kitts, Jack Tar Village, Mexico and most recently Port De Plaisance Hotel, St. Maarten. He has volunteered his services over the years to helping the children at the Anguilla Tennis Academy.



Experiencing T BAR M

Nzingha Banks and Avern Gumbs arrived in Dallas, Texas on July 13, 2012 to a temperature of 108 degrees Fahrenheit. They began their training bright and early at 7:30am at TBARM Racquet Club. TBARM is located in Dallas on 13 acres and boasts 8 indoor climate controlled tennis courts, 8 clay tennis courts, and 14 outdoor hard courts. Twenty-seven tennis professionals work at TBARM, and seven of the professionals have obtained USTA "High Performance" credentials. TBARM Racquet Club has been recognized as one of the top junior tennis academies in the United States.

The girls trained each morning from 8:00am-10:30am doing technical, on-court drills to improve their fundamentals. Repetitive drills that focused on playing patterns and technique really seemed to stimulate their learning immediately.

From 10:30am-11:15am they moved into the 4,000 square foot fitness center and underwent a daily fitness program designed by the TBARM fitness department lead by Bob King. Bob King went to two Olympic games as the trainer for the U.S. track team, and served as trainer to the Dallas Cowboy football team during their Super bowl winning years. Lunch was from 11:15am-12:00noon. Their menu was designed by Megan Russell, TBARM's nutritionist.

At 12:00noon they headed out for match play and competed against some of the best male and female players in Texas. During match play they were video taped and coached according to their strengths and weaknesses. Also during match play the girls worked with Dr. Anne Smith. Dr. Smith is a sports psychologist who won ten grand slam titles and went on to become a consultant for the USTA's "High Performance" program.

At 2:30pm they took private lessons with Chris Wade and other TBARM Tennis Professionals. By 4:00pm they visited the Wellness Center and received chiropractic and physical therapy so that they could get up the next morning and do it all over again!

For the next two weeks the girls followed this daily schedule. Within days, Nzingha had adjusted her service motion and grip and gotten her serves up to a speed 90 miles an hour. Avern also made significant changes to her backhand and was able to hit with the higher level players in the TBARM academy. On July 24th, two college coaches came to see 19 year old Nzingha play. It was a pressure cooker for sure. "At the moment Nzingha had to perform in front of the coaches she did confidently," Chris Wade said. She was offered a full tennis scholarship on the spot. Coach Dave Alden from Washburn University in Kansas was so impressed with Nzingha's potential, he asked her to come play for his university.

Nzingha and Avern came into the Academy ready for anything and got exactly that. Chris Wade, Athletic Director of TBARM, said, "The girls came into the academy with huge smiles, and to their credit left two weeks later smiling even bigger. Mitch, Marvin, Denny, and Vallan all did a superb job in getting them mentally ready for the trip to Dallas."

